Labour in Vain:

OR,

WHAT SIGNIFIES

Little or Nothing.

VIZ.

I. The Poor Man's Petitioning at Court.

II. Expectation of Benefit from a Covetous Man in his Life-time.

III. The Marriage of an Old Man to a Young Woman.

IV. Endeavours to Regulate Mens Manners by Preaching or Writing.

V. Being a *Jacobite*.

VI. Confining an Insolvent Debtor.

VII. Promise of Secrecy in a Conspiracy.

VIII. An Enquiry after a Place.

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Printed, and Sold by most Booksellers in *London* and *Westminster*, 1700.

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A

DIALOGUE

Between the

AUTHOR

AND THE

PRINTER.

Printer. *WHat Title do you design to give this Book?*

Author. Labour in Vain: Or, What Signifies Little or Nothing.

Printer. *Then I'm like to make a very hopeful Bargain this Morning; and grow Rich like a* Jacobite, *that would part with his* Property, *for a* Speculative Bubble.

Author. Be not angry; for the same Estimate and Epithet the greatest Divines give to the whole World.

Printer. *I don't like their Characters, or Epithets; for I believe there's a real value in our Coine; and I know little of their Spiritual Notions, neither will I puzzle my Head about what they tell me I can't rightly Understand.*

Auth. I could convince you, that you are in the wrong, in being so Indifferent about Enquiring into the Cause, Nature, and Value of Things.

Prin. *I am, in this point, a Quaker; and will not by Reason be Convinc'd. Pray, Sir, tell me, am I to Buy a Shop-full of Empty Pasteboard-Boxes, or not?*

Auth. Sir they are full.

Print. *Why then do you put over the Door, That the Goods* Signify Little, or Nothing? *'Tis a ſtrange ſort of Information, to expect to get Cuſtomers by.*

Auth. I had ſeveral Reaſons that induc'd me to put this Title to my Book; and not to keep you longer upon the Fret, I will tell you ſome of them. *Firſt*, The natural inquiſitive Humour that reigns in all Mankind after Novelty; for no ſooner will the Title be Read, or Cry'd, but the Reader, or Hearer, will query what it's about, conclude it ſome Maggot or other, and to be ſatisfi'd, will Buy it; ſo you'll gain by his Curioſity. Then I've known many dull Books that have ſold well, by the help of an Ingenious, or Whimſical Title. *Puffe me, Puffe mo, Puffe cannot ſtay, Colle molle Puff*; the Odneſs and Maggot of that Cry, has ſold the Fellow many a Tart; for many Perſons who only out of Curioſity have peep'd into his Baſket, have found ſomething or other that pleas'd them. Beſides the Title is a *pro po*, becauſe the Subjects I write about, tho' they make a great buſtle in the World, yet their Concluſions, or Produce, are very Frivolous, Inſignificant, and anſwer not the End deſign'd.

Print. *To what purpoſe did you ſpend your time in Writing on ſuch Subjects? And why ſhould I be at the labour of Printing, or charge of Paper?*

Auth. Print it by all means; it may imploy ſome to add to it, the Hiſtory of the Printer.

Print. *What, that my Pains was Labour in Vain, and Charge ſignify'd Little or Nothing? I am mightily oblig'd to you for the method you have taken to Expoſe me to Laughter: But let it prove as it will, if I Buy the Devil, I'll try to Sell him. But if your Whim don't take, I'll never buy Goods again before I've look'd over the whole parcel.*

Labour

Labour in Vain:

OR,

What Signifies Little or Nothing.

The Poor Man's Petitioning at Court.

HOW Fruitleſs and Empty the Requeſts of the *Poor* have return'd at Court, whether they have been for *Juſtice* or *Mercy*, is apparent from a Thouſand Inſtances: And one I'll relate to you, without Peeviſh deſign of Reflecting upon any particular Court, for the *Pauper's* Petition is alike neglected (by what I've Seen, Hear'd, or Read) in every Court. A Gentleman (fitly Qualifi'd) who by permiſſion had Purchaſed an Imploy for Life, under a King, and to his Succeſſors, was, upon a Succeſſor's coming to the Crown (tho' he had taken Oaths of Allegiance, and done what was requiſite, according to Law, for Qualification) to feed the Avarice, or gratify the wicked Bounty of a certain Perſon, to whoſe care the Managery was intruſted, was turn'd out, with only the Madmans humourous Reaſon, *Sic Jubeo, ſic Volo.* By which unjuſt (at leaſt unkind) uſage, he had very little left to maintain himſelf, Wife, and four Children.

At once his Quondam *Friends ſounded Retreat,*
Wou'd ſcarce afford good Words, and much leſs Meat:
To ſee his Face, they'd never after Care,
As if his very Looks Infectious were:
Like Careful Bees, to their own Hives they flew:
As he from Fortune, they from him withdrew.

I cannot forbear in this place putting the Epithet *Wicked*, to that Generous Virtue, *Bounty*; ſince here 'twas a powerful Robbery committed upon one Mans Right, to ſeem Bounteous in a Bequeſt to another. The depriv'd Man hurt, complain'd with all the reſpect a Supplicant ſhould uſe, but his Prayer was anſwer'd with a Negative. Afterwards he ſerv'd that King without Pay in His Army abroad; and upon the death of the Poſſeſſor of his Imploy, he again pray'd to be Reſtor'd; upon which prayer he had an Order for the next Vacancy; which when happen'd, a certain Gentleman, who but a ſhort time before had preſented the Depriv'd Man to the King, in the Army, and had given it under his Hand, That he had been turn'd out without cauſe, and that he ſerv'd as a Volunteer; gave it again under his Hand, That the poor Petitioners alledging to have ſerv'd in the Army, was a miſtake; and his laſt Act (the former, in good manners, I'll believe being forgot) was credited; ſo Order and Petition were both diſmiſs'd, to the Ruine of the Man, and his Family.

OBSERVATION.

By this true Relation is evident, the little ſucceſs that is to be expected from the *poor unhappy* Man's Petitioning againſt a Man in *Power*; for when he pleaſes, he *Blackens* and *Miſrepreſents* an Underling; and what a Favourite ſays, is eaſily believ'd.

Then tell me how the Poor ſhall find relief,
Or gain a Cure for Undeſerved Grief,
Their Fate depending on a King's Belief.

In ſuch a Caſe, a Prince is the eaſieſt Man in the World to be Impos'd on, conſidering the vaſt multitude of Affairs that Center in His Ordering and Manage, the particular Cognizance of all which, 'tis impoſſible for Him to take; for upon a kind of Neceſſity He is oblig'd to have His knowledg of ſeveral Affairs from the report that thoſe about Him are pleas'd to make; and what Man will tell a Story to his own diſadvantage? And who can tell it but the Favorite, whilſt the *poor* Petitioner is debarr'd Acceſs?

Before a Favo'rite, none ſhall be believ'd
And 'gainſt the Rich, 'tis hard to be Believ'd.

In

In vain you offer up an empty Prayer,
Which Fattens not the Courtier, or his Heir;
Something that's Solid, and of real Good,
(At leaſt for ſuch by Worldlings underſtood)
Muſt be preſented, if you'd favour find,
Which rarely warms th' Endowments of the Mind;
But to the Fortunate, and Rich are kind.
Since Money weighs down Juſtice and Deſert,
The Poor's *Deſires don't ſignifie a Fart.*

Expectations of Benefit from a Covetous Man in his Life-time.

Quis Pauper? Avarus: An admirable and proper Anſwer to the Queſtion; becauſe the Covetous Man wanteth that which he hath, as well as that which he hath not, as proves true by the following relation. A Friend of mine (if a Covetous Man can be ſo) of Gentile Extraction, and ſutable Education, having a competent Eſtate of four hundred Pounds *per Annum*, and a thouſand Pounds in Money left him, which Revenue as far exceeded his deſire of Living, as it came ſhort of his deſire of Acquiring; for he no ſooner had the Poſſeſſion, but he retrench'd the uſual Expences of the Family; he ſav'd Charge, by putting away the Mouths that caus'd it; and the only Servant that he kept, liv'd almoſt like a Bear in *Greenland*, on the Nouriſhment he had got in the Summer of the Fathers Life time. In ſhort, no *Anchorite* liv'd more ſparing than he, unleſs it were upon anothers coſt, and then 'twas a covetous humour made him Eat and Drink like a Glutton and a Drunkard. In all his Actions he was Baſe; He would Steal his own Goods, to make his Servant pay for them: By ſuch ſordid ways his Wealth was accumulated; he ſold the Manſion-Houſe, becauſe the Purchaſe-Money would yield a greater profit than the Rent amounted to; and retir'd from a great Houſe (not from Plenty and Abundance) to a leſs, that he could not Rent out: By ſuch Niggardly Methods, in proceſs of time, he had heap'd up a very great Treaſure.

There was a Young hopeful Gentleman, his Nephew, who expe-

cted

ded to reap the fruits of his Covetouſneſs, that often came to viſit him; and was always Complaiſant, ſooth'd, and commended every Humour, which I take to be the right way of Pleaſing; for certain (at leaſt during the time of prevailing Fancy, or Action) every Man is pleas'd with his own Sentiments, or Doings; ſo conſequently loves to have them approv'd, and applauded.

He gratifi'd the Miſers Appetite at his own Expence, his Pantrey and his Cellar were always ready to gratify his leaſt motion of deſire, his Coach and Horſes attended his occaſions; he baulk'd his own Humour, neglected his pleaſant and facetious Companions, and confin'd himſelf to Oblige his Sordid Temper. Tho' it muſt be confeſs'd Self-intereſt mov'd him, yet it pleas'd the Wretch, when he adviſed him to ſecure his Treaſure, that no *Rachel*, or other, might Steal his God. He Chriſtned his Son of the *Jew*'s Name, he did, what not? to Oblige him. He defended him from Robbers at the peril of his own Life: Nay more, He juſtify'd his baſe Principles, contrary to his Conſcience: But all the Returns that were paid to theſe Services, were Mountain-Promiſes, whilſt in his Cups; but Molehills, or no Performances, when Sober.

Afterwards this Obliging Gentleman fell by misfortune into Straits and Neceſſities, ſo that his Family wanted convenient Subſiſtance; yet the other pitileſs, and unconcern'd, return'd no good Nature, no Charity, no grateful Act, for all his generous Obligations; not ſo much as even common Humanity would out of Mercy oblige a very *Jew* to ſhow to a Stranger in Miſery. After the Miſer had Bought what he had left, for half the value, he forbid him his Houſe, and whenever he met him, he paſs'd by him as a Stranger. At laſt, Inteſtate, the miſerable Raſcal Dies; for the very Thought of diſpoſing of his Riches, would have been as Mortal as a Cannon Shot: So *Volens Nolens*, what he left, fell to this Gentleman. But I had almoſt forgot to tell you, That his Jealous Temper (which muſt accompany the Covetous, let their Avarice be fix'd on what it will) made him Bury a great part of his Money and Writings, ſo that a great deal was loſt for want of the knowledge of the Concealments.

OBSERVATION.

OBSERVATION.

A Covetous Deſire is properly applicable to ſelf, for even when I ſeem to deſire the Advantage of another, there is ſomething of ſelf in the matter; and it muſt be allow'd that he I wiſh well, is my Friend; tho' anothers being my Enemy, only makes him ſo; ſo by my deſire, I gratifie my own Inclination in my Friends Advantage, or pleaſe my Anger, in my Enemies Diſadvantage; a Covetous Mans Thoughts center in his own Profit, and what good goes beſides him, he counts by Providence wrong apply'd; then 'tis Idle to expect, that he that Covets all, ſhould fruſtrate his vaſt Deſign, by giving me a part; as Covetouſneſs is a Selfiſh humour, 'tis impoſſible it ſhould be diffuſive.

The Miſers Wiſh, is of a vaſt Extent,
And would Engroſs, beneath the Firmament,
All that it likes; ſtill Covetous, would try
To Merchandize with Spirits of the Sky.
His Wiſhes only to Advantage tend,
From Self's their Origin, in Self they End;
So cannot be Diffuſive to a Friend.
In Vain a Favour you expect from ſuch,
You may as well expect one from the D——.

The Marriage of an Old Man to a Young Woman.

THe mutual Diſapointments that commonly thwart, and hinder the Happineſs expected by the Marriage of an Old Man to a Young Woman, the following Story ſets forth: An Ancient Gentleman, whoſe head Age had Powder'd like a Beau's, who in his Sprightly Youth could at Sight anſwer the Expectations of the moſt Laſcivious Female, as Doctors Commons and Pariſh-Books could Witneſs, he had liv'd a Libertine Life, and had never thoughts of

Marriage, till he was Three Score and Ten, when he happen'd into the Company of a Beautiful Young Woman, whoſe Charms, and Behaviour blew away the Aſhes that covered the Fire that remain'd in the Brands end, ſo that it made a Faint Blaze, which (of late unaccuſtom'd) warmth made the (willing to be Deceiv'd) Senior fancy that there was yet a great Stock of Vigour in his Veins, that would anſwer the ends of Marriage; thus when Lechery had left his Tail, and agitated only by Deſire, fancy'd mighty Performances in his Luſtful Brain, he Courts this Lady for his Bride, who had not the Charms to renue an old *Æſon's* Age, ſenſible that his expiring Flame could not long laſt, he was Impatient of delay; ſo by continual Courtſhip he try'd to watch his Miſtreſs, like a *Hawk*, into Compliance; but 'twas perſwaſive Money that made her Conſent to endure a *Lenten Pennance*, in Expectation of an happy *Eaſter* after his Death. In ſhort, for filthy Lucre Married him, and ſubmitted herſelf to his Feeble Threeſcore and Ten Years Attempts, after his fluttering all the Wedding Day, they were put to Bed, (I think that word ſuitable to his Age) and after Sack-Poſſet Eat, and Stocken thrown, the Company withdrew, and left them to themſelves. When he fail'd in Performance, ſhe was fruſtrated in her Expectation, ſo that their Marriage ſignified Little or Nothing.

OBSERVATION.

The Anſwer I make, to thoſe that will ſay, Every Body knew this Story before, is, That tho' I pretend to Write Novel's, I don't Novelties, but to dreſs up ſomething that for one Meal may be Pleaſing, and of grateful Guſt; and perhaps ſome Obſervation may be made from this Story worthy Self-Application: But tho' the Reader do not, I will, to continue the Method I firſt Deſign'd.

To Attempt any thing, which nothing but (almoſt) a Miracle can make Succeſsful, is Folly and Madneſs; and little leſs, can move a Man of Threeſcore Years and Ten to do——to any purpoſe. An Old Man Marrying a Young Woman, is like laying down a good Joynt of Meat, to an almoſt Conſumed Fire, which will blaze a while, but by the ſudden decay, for want of Fuel, will make it but luke Warm:

He

He is counted a Blockhead that pretends to ſet up a Trade, when he is paſt Labour, without he takes an able Journeyman; and I believe in this Caſe, no Man will willingly admit of a Journeyman to manage his Commodity, and without one (by effects may be judg'd) the Marriage will ſignifie little towards Procreation. Diſappointments muſt happen to the Man from Natural Conſequence, notwithſtanding the mighty belief of his Abilities. I have known from Powerful Fancy, when a Child has been tyred with Walking, yet Imagining he Rode when he had a Switch between his Legs, would Imitate the Trot and Gallop, for a ſmall while, without complaining; but preſently the weakneſs and Imbecility of his Feet, made him ſenſible his Natural Strength (tho' agitated by Deſire) could not carry him to his deſired home: So the Old, whoſe Vigorous heat is Spent, may imagine if he get a Cock Horſe, how furiouſly he'll Ride; but like the tyred Child, his Natural decay will appear.

The Man being deceived, by Conſequence the Woman muſt; and what ſad Effects do ſuch Diſappointments cauſe, are Evident from the future carriage of both Man and Woman: He grows Jealous, unwilling another ſhould Feed, tho' he himſelf can't make uſe of the Dainties; then the Poor abuſed Woman is watch'd, perhaps confin'd, and her whole Life made uneaſie.

Like a poor Man (cajoll'd by mighty Promiſes) tranſported to the *Weſt-Indies*; when he comes there, finding himſelf a Slave, to the Beck and Rod of an Imperious Patron, being faſt bound by Contract, has no hopes of Liberty, but from the Expiration of time; ſuch is the Condition of a Young Woman, who flatter'd with the belief of Fond Doting Dalliance, and Plenty, is betray'd into the Slavery of Marriage, with an Old Fellow, ſhe has no hopes of Deliverance from, but by the Expiration of her Diſagreeable Husbands Life; her Youthful heat meeting with the Icy coldneſs of his Age, cauſes thunder in the Houſe: Continual Jars forbid all hopes of Peace.

When Waves Swol'n high by force of mighty Wind,
They fiercely meet, and are in Battle joyn'd;
The frothy Salt, with motion's ſet on Fire;
But Waſh'd with Native Water, ſoon expire:

So toſs'd by Billows of remaining Luſt,
Which Shuffles up and down the Aged Duſt,
Salt Sparks are blown into a ſudden Flame,
But Ages Moiſture ſoon does quench the ſame.
The old Mans boaſting Promiſes in Love,
Do little ſignifie, as Women prove;
'Tis Vapour all, and Limber as my Glove.
In Vain the Aged Man hopes to Receive
Bleſſings, which only Spritely Youth can give;
In Vain a Woman does expect a Trade,
From one whom Stingy Age has Bankrupt made;
Such Diſappointments happen to them both,
Which makes the Marriage prove of little worth.

The Reverſe of this Story, which is an Old Woman Marrying to a Young Fellow, is to the full as ridiculous, and ſignifies as little to a mutual Content.

Endeavours to Regulate Mens Manners by Preaching or Writing.

THE preſent Age is not ſo very Vertuous, but that we may meet with examples in almoſt every Company and Converſation, that demonſtrates the little Efficacy the well deſign'd Writings and Publick Teaching of Good Men have had, towards Reformation of Manners, and the Practice of Vertue. But not being willing to expoſe particularly the Inſenſibility that appears either in my own Life, by not Amending, and Correcting my reprov'd Actions, or in the general Practice of any Fellow-Countrymen; I have pitch'd upon the Hiſtory of *Socrates*, ſo far as it agrees with my Deſign; that is, to ſhow how little the good Documents he Taught, ſignified to the Reform or Benefit of the *Athenians*, and the *Odium* they cauſed from thoſe he endeavour'd to Amend.

Socrates,

Socrates, who was Born in a ſmall Village called *Halopex*, under the *Athenian* Juriſdicton; is commonly called the *Athenian*, to diſtinguiſh him from ſeveral others, of that Name, one of which Wrote the Hiſtory of *Argos*, another was a *Bathynian*, &c. This *Socrates* the *Athenian*, was taught Philoſophy under *Anaxagoras*, he was a Man of great Temperance, of a ſtrong Conſtitution, one who enquir'd into the Nature of Sublime things, Studied Humanity, Practiſed and Publickly Preached, to poor and Rich, Vertue and Good Manners; to be ſilent, and not to reprove Wicked Men, he counted a Crime againſt the Gods; to Diſcourſe of Vertue, he eſteem'd as a great Happineſs; and imploying himſelf almoſt conſtantly in inſtructing of the Citizens, he neglected mightily his private Affairs, ſo that he was Poor, and told the *Athenians*, that he ought to be Maintained out of the *Prytaneum*, or *Publick Store-Houſe*: That he ought to be Rewarded more then a Victor, for the Conqueror could but make them appear to be Happy, when by his Inſtructions in Vertue (if Practiſed) they would really be ſo, not only from preſent Serenity of Mind, but in *Futuro*; for he believed an Immortality of the Soul, and the very day he Died, he imploy'd in Diſcourſing of, and by Convincive Arguments to his Friends prov'd the Souls Indiviſibility, and Conſequently Immortality; he Taught as he Believ'd, that nothing of Evil could happen to a Good Man, his Concerns being taken Care of by the Gods; but notwithſtanding his Eloquent perſwaſive Speeches upon ſo Noble a Subject, as Vertue, which for its own Sake, ought to attract Mens Inclinations, and Affections; the *Athenians* were ſo far from Reforming from their Accuſtom'd Immoralities, that *Miletus*, *Anytus*, and others, accuſed him, as Guilty of a Capital Crime, for Inſtructing the People in the ways of Vertue, and for Reproving them, when they Acted contrary to Morality and good Manners: They were ſo Exaſperated againſt him for his Good Endeavours to introduce Honeſty and Piety, Inconſiſtent with their Practice, that without a Confronting Witneſs, they Condemn'd him to Death; which Sentence was put in Execution by a Draught of Poyſon. By which Barbarous uſage, 'tis Apparent that all his Teaching ſignified little towards the Reformation of the Lives of his Fellow Citizens.

OBSERVATION.

Tho Licentiouſneſs is more agreeable, and facile to the deprav'd Nature of Mankind; yet almoſt every Age hath produc'd a Preaching Experienc'd *Solomon*, a *Socrates*, a *Plato*, or ſome ſuch Good Men, who have Endeavour'd by Writing and Teaching, back'd with the Inducing Reaſons of a preſent Serenity of Mind, that muſt upon Neceſſity Accompany Vertuous Actions, or the Glorious Proſpect of an Unconceivable Reward hereafter; to perſwade Men by Arguments, Conducing to ſelf Intereſt, (which in all other Caſes is prevailent) to Practice Piety, Honeſty and Civility, yet what poor Crops have the Stony Soil produc'd, every Age againſt it ſelf is Witneſs. The *Libertiniſm* of an *Heathen*, I don't ſo much wonder at, becauſe he has no Thoughts of Futurity to Check his Mad Career; but that Men who are dayly Taught, and Inſtructed in Piety, and Morality, and who upon a Self-query, will own that they really Believe to do Good, is for their Advantage, ſhould Act directly contrary to their Belief, is an Extravagant Madneſs, not to be parallell'd: Is there no Remedy for ſo Great, and Contagious an Evil to be found? Yes, an *Heathen* teaches me one, *Trahimur Exemplis Plus Quam Præceptis*; for if thoſe in Power and Greatneſs Practiſed Vertue, the Underlings would Imitate; if 'twere Cuſtomary, every one would be in the Faſhion: But whilſt Vice and Immorality are Countenanc'd by the Great, Orders for keeping the *Sabbath*, and againſt Prophanneſs, are of little Efficacy; for when the great Fiſh break the Net, the little ones will go out at the Rent. Tho' arguing for Vertue, and good Manners, is highly to be Commended, yet the little Reformation we find, ſhows that hitherto it has ſignified Little or Nothing.

He that would bar me of a coming Joy,
And by ſtrict Rules, my Liberty Deſtroy,
In Trammels makes me Pace away my Life,
'Twixt Nature and his Rules is conſtant ſtrife;

So

So Irkſom, and Uneaſie I muſt be,
By Reaſon of their great Antipathy;
This is the Language of th' Unthinking Man,
Who led by Cuſtom, loves to be Prophane;
And will not change his Road, what e're you Teach,
Scarce tho' a Jonah *once again ſhould Preach:*
But ſtill that Monkey, Man, would Imitate,
And Virtue Practice, Copy'd from the Great.
Examples, wanting Precepts, are but Vain;
And moving Arguments in florid ſtrain,
Won't make the Blockiſh Crow'd from Ill Refrain.

Being a Jacobite.

ONE, who out of Good Manners, I muſt ſtile a Gentleman, becauſe he juſtly Claims that Title from his Anceſtors; and it muſt be allow'd him now, even in his Adverſity, ſince his Accounted Crimes of Omiſſion, in not actually complying to the Laws in force, proceed from the Dictates of his Conſcience, and not from an Obſtinate Spirit of Contradiction; for tho' this Gentlemans Opinion will not permit him to comply in the Active part, yet out of Submiſſion to the Laws of his Countrey, without refractorineſs, he's Obedient in the Paſſive. This Gentleman (as many others) is at this time term'd a *Jacobite*, as being the title Cuſtomarily uſed, in Oppoſition to *Williamite*; concluding, that he that is not for me, is againſt me.

Upon the Revolution in the Year 1688, (which by Unfathom'd Providence was brought about, ſo contrary to Rational Appearance, that after Ages will heſitate at the Belief of the Heroick Attempts of the preſent King, and the Unaccountable Manage of the laſt) this Man was turn'd out of ſeveral Conſiderable Imploys, (or rather he turn'd himſelf out, for it cannot be expected, that any will be Maſter

Maſter (unleſs by Power to thoſe that will not ſerve them) ſtrip'd of his Incomes, he for a while handſomly ſubſiſted; but feeding conſtantly upon laſt Years Crop, without Sowing for another Harveſt, his Granary was Empted without hopes of Repleniſhing, without a Miracle; Reduc'd, he herded with thoſe of his own Opinion, that by the Benevolence of Fortune were able to relieve him, and did Generouſly for a time; but continual Dependence made him ſenſible of the Bitterneſs of the Curſe: The Undervaluing Slights, the tyring Attendance, often Refuſals, beggarly Loans, Reprimands, Advice too late given, all which, with appearing Patience, by force he was oblig'd (if he would Eat) to undergo, made him almoſt diſtracted in his Thoughts. The impending Miſery of want by its near approach, appearing Dreadful and Afrightning, put him upon the Studious Thoughts, how to ſubſiſt for the future. He conſidered the many reaſons drawn from ſelf Intereſt, and other Powerful Motives, for Conforming to the preſent Government; the general Conſent, and Practice of many, whoſe Learning and Integrity he could not call in queſtion (unleſs he ſhould Contradict his own Experience) made him bring his Manage into Examination, and his Rational Arguments made him often Waver, and query the Prudence of his Opinion; ſo far, that he had ſome thoughts of Conforming to what the Repreſentatives of the Nation had agreed; but having ſo long ſtood out, he could have no hopes of being received with that favour, ſo as to be truſted in any conſiderable Imploy; either Civil, Military, or Eccleſiaſtical; he was too Poor, and of too little Intereſt, to expect an Honourable Title; too Illiterate to be made a *Dean*, too well known to be truſted with the Managing of a Secret in National Affairs; ſo he ſtuck to his old Principals tho' he reap'd no Advantage by them, for *Poverty* like *Ivie* twines to the *Jacobite*, and ſpoils his Growth; his Opinion Contradicting in general, to the Sentiments of the greateſt part of the Nation, was ſo far from being any ways Advantagious to him, that it expos'd him to want; and debar'd him from the hopes of repairing his Ruined Fortunes.

OBSERVATION.

OBSERVATION.

THIS Story is equally applicable to *Jacobite*, *Williamite*, *Wigg*, *Tory*, or what other Name of Diſtinction is given to any Man, who Rows not with the common Stream that the River of his Country runs; he tugs againſt the Tide, and makes very little Progreſs. To oppoſe the General Sentiments of a Country, is drawing up-hill by choice, and gives juſt cauſe for People to call a Man's Judgment in Queſtion, ſince there is a nearer, and down-hill beaten Path at Hand; 'tis ſomething like going in the *Strand*, towards the Horſe-Guard, on a *Sunday* in the Evening, when one has the trouble of meeting the Current of the City Gentry, going from the *Park*; he that complies not to the Practice of a Nation,, appears like one in a Sad-coloured Coat, bearing Arms amongſt the Guard at *White-hall*, he is ſtar'd at; and if obſerv'd by a Superior, will be Puniſhed.

Relating to a Man's Compliance, or Non-Compliance, ought to be conſidered; whether what required be conſonant to Juice, and Self-Preſervation, argued Pro and Con, in refference to Spiritual, and Temporal Affairs, the laſt not contradicting the formers poſitive Commands. And ſure I am, or muſt appear to be, by rational Men, much Wiſer, or more Blockiſh, than the reſt of the Nation, in a General Council conſenting, if I oppoſe, or refuſe Conformity to its Agreement. Parallel Examples ought to be ſearch'd for, and the method of Proceedings, that have been commonly taken by others, approv'd by future Allowance to have been Juſt, and fitting to be done, ought to Guide, and mightily Sway me to concord to ſuch approv'd Precedents; for if a Man diſagrees out of a particular Opinion, or Intereſt, he, as far as in him lyes, calls the diſcretion of a great many in Queſtion, and battles a number with his opiniated Reaſon, from ſuch Proceeding, one can expect no Beneſit, or Reputation. No Advantage, becauſe none will truſt another (in any thing of Weight) that is of a contrary Perſwaſion; becauſe 'tis reaſo-

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nable to believe, that every Man is inclinable to act what ſutes beſt to his Fancy, and moſt conducing to bring to effect his deſired Aim: So, inſtead of ſerving that Intereſt by which intruſted, to gratify his real Sentiments, he'll betray the ſecrets to him committed.

What is in Vogue carries a preſent Reputation, (than being a *Jacobite*) muſt conſequently cauſe an undervaluing, and ſo *Signify Little, or Nothing.*

Allow Sentiments offer'd, right, or wrong,
If Judge and Jury too, joyn with the Throng;
In Contradiction to the preſent Thought,
My ſole Opinion ſignifieth nought.
'Tis over-rul'd, and I am ſurely caſt,
Which proves the fate of Separiſts at laſt;
For to oppoſe the Torrent of a Stream,
Reſiſt a greater Power, is like my Dream,
Which fancies mighty Riches, mighty Power,
But Poor and Weak, I meet the waking Hour;
With a Probatim eſt *ſome ſadly tell,*
What once they were, to what they now are fell.

Confining an Inſolvent Debtor.

A Grave Citizen, an Alderman's Fellow, by Loſſes and Croſſes, and GOD knows what, was reduc'd to the neceſſity of leaving his Houſe, and moving himſelf and Effects into the Sanctuary for Bankrupts, *White-Fryars*; where, for a while he confin'd himſelf to his Chamber, and when he went out, the Company ſeaſoned to the Place, who were no proud Men, but would quickly be acquainted without Ceremony, made him aſham'd,

ſham'd, and bluſh like a young Sinner, the Curtains undrawn; with care he ſoon caſt up his Books; and ſubſtracting his Debtors from his Creditors, he found a greater Ballance due than he was able to pay; but willing (as 'tis natural for all Creatures) to be at Liberty, he ſummoned his Creditors, and offered them ten Shillings for every Pound, reſerving for himſelf but a ſmall Pittance to ſubſiſt on, or lay a new Foundation for freſh Credit: But ſome (*Jews* in Practice) refus'd a Compliance to any Abatement, and reſolved to make Dice of his Bones: Their Cruelty griev'd and afflicted him ſo much, that his Sorrow and Concern was apparent in his Face; and being ask'd the Reaſon, he told that his Creditors Non-compliance was the cauſe of it; upon which, a Doctor in the Civil Laws of the Place, took him to Task; told him his Security there; brought Examples and Precedents how *Tom* ſuch an one, and Sir *John* ſuch an one, had us'd their Creditors, and brought them to Compliance: Unmerciful Rogues! What? Refuſe to take Ten Shillings in the Pound? If I might adviſe you, they ſhould not have above half a Crown; I intend to give mine but Eighteen Pence; ſure you are not ſuch a Fool to part with all, and ſuffer your ſelf and Family to want: Such Company, ſuch Examples, ſuch Documents have waſh'd away the honeſt firſt Intents of many a Man, but it could not flote his; for he ſtill deſign'd, to his Power, to ſatisfy every Body; but unwilling to be Caged in a cloſer Priſon, he there Liv'd; and ſpending upon the main Stock conſtantly, it waſted ſo faſt, that at his next Propoſal to his Creditors, he could offer but Five Shillings, which was alſo rejected: And ſome time after not being watchful of his Ways, the Catchpoles ſiez'd him at the Suit of an old proteſting Friend of his, a Neighbour, for whom he woutd ſent, hoping Mercy from their former intimate Acquaintance; but the Officers telling him 'twould be to no purpoſe, ſince that Warrant which they nam'd to him, was but one amongſt Twenty they had againſt him; ſo after ſqueezing him out of Twenty Shillings for Dinner, Ale, and Brandy, they lodged him in the Compter; where his Fellow-Priſoners flock'd about him, ſome pulling this way, ſome that, like *Water-men* at turn of Ebb at *Billingſgate*, all calling for Gar-

niſh, which clamorous demand never ceaſed till he had paid it The want of Liberty made him value it more than ever, and deſiring next to Life his Liberty; he with Prayers intreated his Creditors to accept of all that he had, but they refuſed it, and would not believe that he gave a true or juſt account, though he offer'd to make Oath of it; ſo, by lying there, the poor Man for Neceſſaries conſumed, what merciful men would have been contented with, when the *Parliament*, out of Conſideration of the Miſery that many (not able to pay their Debts) in Priſon endured, ordered a Diſcharge upon ſuch and ſuch Conditions, under the which he was comprehended, and conſequently diſcharged, without paying one Farthing; whereas, if the Creditors had formerly comply'd, they might have had half their Debts, and the Man his Liberty; ſo their confining him prov'd their Detriment. And the like happen to others, when the Inſolvent Die in Cuſtody; for where 'tis not to be had, the King muſt looſe his Right.

OBSERVATION.

SUCH have been the Fate of many Inſolvent Debtors; and ſuch have prov'd the Return to many uncharitable and cruel Creditors; and I believe all merciful Men will think the laſt deſerv'd it: Expectation to recover Debts by confining an inſolvent Man, whereby he is debar'd of opportunity to acquire wherewithal to pay his Debts, is an *Ægyptian* Propoſal, To make Brick without Straw, *quod ultra poſſe*, now *eſt eſſe*.

'Tis a very good Law in the Signiory of *Biſcay*, that no Native *Biſcayner* ſhall be Impriſoned for Debt above Forty Eight Hours; but the Creditor in that time ſhall have Judgment againſt whatſoever Effects ſhall be found to be his, or what afterwards he either by Labour, Art, or otherwiſe ſhall acquire, yet upon giving Security, not to depart the Signiory, he ſhall be diſcharged out of Cuſtody, to get his Livelihood.

I

I have heard that in *Holland* no Creditor ſhall keep in Priſon an inſolvent Debtor, unleſs he will maintain him there, with ſubſiſtance to preſerve his Life : But here in *England* in this point, we out-do the *Dutch* in Cruelty, confining People to Starve, contrary to Humanity, Mercy, or Policy. One may as reaſonably expect his *Dog* ſhould catch an *Hare*, when chain'd to a Poſt, as a poor Debtor ſhould in a Goal get wherewithall to pay his Debts.

Ask but the cruel Man, what he would have
From his poor Debtor, *to his will a Slave*
Confin'd in Priſon, preſently he'll ſay
My Money, yet acts quite contrary way
To gain his end ; for, how can one expect,
Where no Cauſe moves, there ſhould be an Effect.
What ſilly Farmer *will confine his Cow*
From needful Herbage, for no hear der Low
For Food ; or in reaſon can he believe,
By ſuch Confinement, he ſhall Milk receive :
As ſilly is the Hope, when you confine
A Man Inſolvent, for to raiſe the Coyn.

Promiſe of Secrecy in a Conſpiracy.

THO' I could produce variety of Inſtances out of Ancient Hiſtory ſuitable to this Subject, yet I have choſe one which has come to the knowledge, and is ſtill freſh in the Memory of almoſt every *Engliſh* Man, to ſhow the little Truſt and Confidence that is to be given to the ſolemn Promiſes of Secrecy in a Conſpiracy, or wicked Deſign.

In

In the Year 169 ſeveral angry diſcontented Men club'd to the hatching a Plot or Conſpiracy for ſubverting the preſent Government ; and for the more certainty of effecting it, deſigned, contrary to Honour, and common Humanity, to take off the preſent Head, that the Limbs might be in Confuſion, wanting an immediate Director for their Motion, ſo in the hurly burly to have Proclaimed one, who unhappily has too much Proclaimed himſelf.

There is no need of mentioning their Deſign at large, or the Progreſs they had made, every Man knowing the drift of their Conſpiracy, and the Conſpirators ; ſo I'll only take Notice, that after their Plot was laid, the Aſſaſſinators agreed on, and Secrecy ſworn to, at the *Sun-Tavern*, and other Places, ſome of them (falſe, firſt to their Country, then to their Adherents) diſcovered the Conſpiracy. I wiſh 'twere done out of a repentant Principle, and believing a Promiſe to do Evil ought not to be kept ; but their covetous ſoliciting for Rewards induce me to believe, that the Principle of Self-intereſt was the chief Motive of their Diſcovery ; but let it proceed from what cauſe ſoever, 'tis apparent, that the Obligations under which they were engaged, were not of Force to keep the Secret undiſcovered ; The like Diſcoveries have been made at *Venice*, at *Rome*, at *Genoua*, and in almoſt all the the Kingdoms on the Earth ; tho' the greateſt Cautions and Securities that Self-preſervation, or aſpiring Ambition could invent, to tye up the confeſſing Tongue, have been made uſe of ; he that will be a Villain in attempting a great Evil, is not to be truſted ; for 'tis probable he will be ſo in a leſſer, eſpecially if he expects to reap advantage by it.

OBSERVATION.

SELDOM any Reſolution is ſo fix'd, but that apparent benefit, as Self-preſervation, or Riches, will alter it, eſpecially

cially when the Reſolve is evil, for no Man, though never ſo much prompted by Ambition, Avarice, Luſt or Revenge, but has a Monitor within, which Dictates to him, that his Reſolve and Attempt is Evil in it ſelf; and from what one's Reaſon informs to be bad, a Man is eaſily drawn from Effecting: So we find many Men who dare undaunted, look Death in the Face in a juſt Cauſe, will Recant and appear Cowards, when Ill is to be attempted, from whence has proceeded many Diſcoveries of Plots and Conſpiracies, to the Secreſie of which, Men have Oblig'd themſelves by all the Tyes that are counted Sacred and Binding; ſuch are to be counted Repentants, becauſe they diſcover the Deſign out of an Odium to the Evil. But ſome, without Conſidering Good or Evil, in Relation to Futurity, diſcover the ſecret Conſpiracies with them intruſted, not for Conſcience, but for Lucre ſake, others when their firſt Heat is over, grow Puſilanimous, and confeſs to ſave their Lives; ſometimes infinite Wiſdom confounds their Councils and Devices, lead them into Errors and Miſtakes, and by ways unimaginable, bring to Light the hidden things of Darkneſs.

Whilſt a protecting Providence *do ſway,*
Whilſt Men Inſpir'd dictates do obey,
Whilſt Life has Value, and Reward has Love,
Proteſted Secreſie *in Ill does prove*
Of ſmall Validity; the firſt will act
What's Conſonant to Juſtice of a Fact:
The Second by Impulſive Power *Command,*
What wo'n't Man do to keep his waſting Sand?
And bountiful Reward makes Men betray
Their deareſt Kin, and Friendſhip wipes away.
Subject to Power, *and tempted by a Bait,*
Too pleaſing to deny, of little weight
Proves promis'd Privacy; *then why ſhould I*
Meddle in Plots, *in Hopes of Secreſie?*

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The Progreſs of an Enquirer after Places.

THOUGH Diſappointments are in ſome Degree or other, moſt commonly the Companions that attend and thwart the Hopes and Expectations of all Mankind; yet have I not obſerv'd more Diſappointments generally to accompany any Attempt, than I have the Endeavours, and Deſigns, to get into Reputable Places and Employments, as by the Sequel will appear.

An *Engliſh* Gentleman, who by Hoſpitality amongſt his County Neighbours, had Spent the greateſt part of his Eſtate; having very little, beſides the *Manſion Seat* of his Family left, ſeeing himſelf Slighted by thoſe very Men who had largely taſted of his Bounty, ſeriouſly began to Conſider, how he ſhould ſtill Support himſelf in ſome Credible Reputation; and after he had run over ſeveral deſigning Thoughts, and Built *Caſtles* in the *Air*, he at laſt fix'd upon the common Hopes of getting a Place, or Employ at *London*. To effect which, he preſently Sold the remaining part of his Eſtate; and to *London* he came, to put in Practice the *Scheme* he had Drawn, for raiſing once again his Fortune. His firſt Application was, to beſure, to one of the worthy Burgeſſes that Serv'd for a Neighbouring Corporation, who by the Charms of Bribery, and by Virtue of his ſtrong Drink, had carried the Election *Nemine Contradicente*; him he acquainted with his Deſign, and deſir'd his kind Aſſiſtance, who preſently Promiſed Fair for Country ſake, thô he was an *Iriſhman*; upon his Promiſe, every Morning he danc'd Attendance, at the Levee of my *Dear Joy*; and when he walk'd, he kept Cringing on his Larboard Quarter, not preſuming to go *Cheek by Jowl* with one of the Repreſentatives of the Nation; who had the ſame Buſineſs during the whole Seſſions of Parliament, that he had during the Term-time, two Motions a Day, to *Weſtminſter* and back again; but finding his Waiting, and the other's Promiſes, would Signify the ſame thing, and the Senator being gone to *Tunoridge*, where the Proverb was on his ſide, he bethought himſelf what farther Methods were to be taken;

ken; and luckily finding upon a Coffee-houſe Table, a Paper Intituled, *A Collection for Improvement of Husbandry and Trade*, by John Houghton, *F. R. S.* Wherein he found, that he knew of ſeveral that wanted Men ſo or ſo Qualified or Recommended, and ſeveral that were ſo and ſo Qualified and Recommended, that wanted the Imployments which others wanted to have Officiated. At firſt view he thought this Paper as a Pillow of Light to guide him in the Dark: But upon examining the Inquiries after Places and Imploys, and thoſe that wanted Agents, found they anſwer'd one another's Occaſions, and that there was not one Agent enquired after, but there was the ſame Place ſought for; ſo he diſpair'd of Succeſs from that, ſeeing every one's Occaſion might be ſupplied.

Though his Sleep, or rather Slumbers, was unquiet and ſhort, occaſioned by the concern that hagg'd his Thoughts about his future earthly well Being, yet his lying Awake was more tormenting to him, as much as Impending want had then a more lively Impreſſion, than his drowſy Fancy could Repreſent; ſo trying, as if it were to avoid himſelf, he aroſe, ſlighting Beauiſh Formality, ſoon dreſs'd himſelf, and went to *Man*'s Coffee-houſe; where, though 'twas early in the Morning, he found Talkative *Will*, a tall elderly Man, with his own Hair, diverting the Company, ſometimes in *Engliſh*, ſometimes in *French*; in both Languages he told Stories as improbable to be true as all D. *O*'s Narrative. He took upon him the States-man, and told the Company he knew of Funds that would have rais'd Money enough to defray the Charge of the War, without being any preſſure to the Subject: He blam'd all that he was pleas'd to think Miſmanagement in the Concerns of the Nation; and then gravely told them, how all might have been prevented, which every Block-head can do, after the Act is paſt; and, for the future how he would have things managed; but Mercy upon us if Affairs were to be ordered by his Managery, (looking upon his own Conduct) it may reaſonably be believed, they would have been Ten times worſe directed. After he had Rail'd at ſeveral particular Perſons, whoſe names he did not tell. (but deſcrib'd them plainer than I do him) He grumbled at the Bounty beſtow'd upon Favorites; but I ſuppoſe his Cozen *Harry*'s

Humour then poſſeſs'd him, who always Rails when he is Poor; but whilſt a Bounty is in his Pocket, (which never wears it out) he is as much for Praiſing, as when Pennileſs in Railing and Reflecting. If Variety be pleaſing, ſure Mr. *William*'s Diſcourſe was diverting; for he run over Stories (as much as the time would allow) of Men and Women, of all Qualities, all ſorts of Countries, Governments, Languages, Horſes, Dogs, Cocks, Wine, Snuff, *&c.* as poſitively as if he had been an Eye or Ear-witneſs, had Travell'd them all over, been a Privy-Councellor in every one of them; a Profeſſor of Languages, own'd, or layed Wagers, Drank, Taſted, or Snuff'd of every ſort: But at laſt took opportunity (though no occaſion offered) to tell how nigh he was Related to, and how he was belov'd and reſpected by a *Dutch Engliſh* Nobleman; which at laſt ſtartled my Inquirer from the Confuſion the medley of his Diſcourſe had put him into, and brought into his Thought, that this Gentleman's Intereſt might do him a Kindneſs.

His approaching Neceſſity having made him confident beyond his natural Temper, he preſently enquired the Gentleman's Name and Lodging, and that Day waited upon him, and in ſhort deſired his Favour towards helping him to an Imploy fit for a Gentleman, and at the ſame time promiſed to be grateful; Mr. *William*, who never wants complimental Civility, told him, that he would aſſiſt him in what lay in his Power, and mentioned to him ſeveral Places that he might endeavour to get; but knowing none then Vacant, he deſired he would meet him on the Morrow, when he would bring a Man (meaning his Cozen *Harry*) whom the Cobweb Laws cannot confine, though in cloſe Confinement) who knew of Forty to be diſpos'd of. The next Day, according to appointment, they all met, and *Harry* cajoll'd my Inquirer, and fitted his Humour to a T—; indeed he muſt be of a very ſtingy Temper whom he cann't pleaſe, for he is really a very ſenſible Gentleman. My Inquirer's Deſires were made known to him; and *Harry* (who never parts with a Man, but he leaves him a plauſible proſpect of effecting his Deſigns) laid down ſuch Aſſurances upon Promiſes made in his Favour, that my Gentleman began to believe at ſuch a Day he might enter into

into Pay or Sallery; but before he parted, *Harry* had nicely examined, though at a diſtance, how his Stock was, either to Bribe or Purchaſe, and in a Day or Two was to give my Enquirer a poſitive Anſwer; but I had almoſt forgot to tell you, that juſt at parting *Harry* bore up to him, and told him, that though he would ſerve a Gentleman gratis with his Labour, yet there would be Expences; to defray which, he expected he ſhould bring him Ten Guineas the next Morning. My Enquirer, buoy'd up with hopes, came the next Morning with ready Rhino in his Pocket, had immediately Admittance into a Room ſpread with old Carpets, that the Man at the Three Roſes had refus'd to Stitch Cards on. Preſently honeſt *Harry*, who like the Hungry *Jew*, watch'd the falling Manna, came in, and accoſted him with, Sir, I've done your Buſineſs, for I was with my Lord laſt Night, and to ſerve you, ſpent my own Intereſt, ſo effectually, that I had his Promiſe on your Behalf: Upon theſe words the Manna dropt into his Hand, which *Harry* never kept till the following Day, for fear it ſhould turn Sower: My Enquirer's moving Hand having reach'd Ten, at which number *Harry*'s Allarm ſtood, it immediately rung a Peal in Diviſion about Places, for half an Hour together, That he that wrote the preſent State of *England* in the Year, 1694, was a Block-head compared to him; for he has not mentioned a quarter of the Places and Imploys, that *Harry* nam'd to my Enquirer, and gave him the choice of any of them: He that put an Advertiſement for the Sale of Horſes, cann't in a Months time name ſo many Horſes to be ſold, as he pretended to know Imploys: My Enquirer, amongſt the many Texts this Parſon Quoted, pitch'd upon Two or Three which ſerv'd to his liking; and when Mr. *Harry* had done talking, he told him, ſuch or ſuch would ſuit his Education, and agreed with his Humour. Oh, ſays *Harry*, thoſe are not as yet Vacant, but they will be perhaps before the Parliament riſes; for they are reſolved to ſuffer very few Members of the Houſe to be in Imploys, wherein any Branch of the Revenue is to be managed; and ſince 'tis certain ſome will part with their Places rather than to be turn'd out of the Houſe, your ſtudy muſt be, how to get into one of thoſe they Abdicate; to effect which, you muſt try to engratiate your ſelf with a S------ of S--, with Three of the L--- of the T----- at leaſt: And the thoughtful Gentleman, who, by much Labour of his Brain, hammers out things in a great Perfection, to be

 known

known and well recommended to the P - - - C - - - - - ; for ſome Imploys muſt be granted in C - - - : Now, the fitteſt Man upon Earth to be your Solicitor there, is *W. F.* who, though he is Foundered in his Feet, has a natural Aſſurance to tell a Story plauſibly to any Nobleman, though 'tis ſeldom minded ; he is Old-Dog with the Ladies and Boys, and their conſtant Solicitor : Beſides, he may be, from his own Intereſt, very ſerviceable to you ; for I know, the other Day he help'd a Footman to a Place, and took but Half a Crown for his Labour.

'Twill alſo be requiſite for you to learn Decimals and Gauging, and make Application to the C - - - of E - - ; Or to the L - - of the A - - . Or to the C - - - of the C - - - But you muſt not neglect making Application to ſeveral particular Perſons, who always ſeem in an hurry, as if they had the whole concerns of the Nation to manage : Amongſt which, there is honeſt *Tony*, who ſeldom gives the C - - - of F - - - - , and E - - - - - , much trouble to draw up a Report ; *A. R. is not duely Elected.* I muſt beg Pardon, when I ſay, 'tis hard that ſo underſtanding a Gentleman ; one that knows how to take all Advantages, ſhould not be in the Houſe, no Man being fitter to caution againſt Deceits, than the - - - - He has been ſerviceable to the Nation by the project of packing of Hay ; by the manage of which, Horſes Eat leſs than uſual, and their Bellies were taken up, without Belly-cloaths, the ſmell did their Buſineſs ; yet *Tony* had but 3l. a Load, for what coſt him 25s.

His Principles may be gueſs'd by his Practice ; and he has declared his Sentiments, how People that would thrive, ſhould manage themſelves ; and deſigns (if he may be believed) to inſtill the ſame Principles into his Children ; for he told an honeſt Gentleman, that if he had a Son, he would adviſe him to flatter and diſſemble with all Mankind ; never to ſpeak Truth but when it was for his Advantage : With this worthy Gent. 'twill be neceſſary to be acquainted, if you have Money to purchaſe an Imploy

under

under the M - - - of the H - - - ; for every one of them that were in his reach, he has either ſold, or been a Broker in the matter : You need make no Intereſt to him by Interceſſion of Friends ; for he has no reſpect to Perſons, Principles, or Qualities ; but like a late deceaſed Knight, whoſe Wit (by miſtake ſo called) lay in bold Examinations of Scripture paſſages ; buffonly rediculing what was beyond his ſhallow Capacity to underſtand) has regard only to the Money, let it come from *Williamite*, *Jacobite*, or *Devil* : Beſides him, there's another you ſhould be acquainted with, that is a blinking Fellow, a meer pretender to the Law, who could ſcarce Read (allowing Breviations) at the Exchequer Bar : He, by his Pretenſions, one would think had the diſpoſal of 40 conſiderable Places ; indeed he has moſt of the Gentry at his beck, though 'tis a ſhame to ſee how poor ſpirited ſome of them are, to cringe and creep to him, whom moſt honeſt Men avoid ; though there's a broad mixture in this Man of Knave and Fool, yet he ſo manages by Tricks and Lyes a certain Perſon in whoſe Power 'tis to make you one extraordinary ; that a Trial ought to be made of his Intereſt : And ſure, by ſome of theſe, with my Aſſiſtance, (which you ſhall never want, a Man of your Birth, Education, and Ingenuity) cann't miſs of ſome Imploy or other. Now, Sir, I've told you what's to be done, uſe your endeavour ; and when you have fix'd upon your particular, come again to me, and I (as Mr. *Houghton* ſays) can help. My Enquirer, with his Head full of this Council, takes leave, reſolving to meditate on it, and put it in Practice ; but going down Stairs, he ſaw a written Paper which *Harry's* Servant had drop'd ; and being curious, took it up and put it in his Pocket to Read at Leiſure ; the firſt opportunity he had he opened the Paper, and found as follows: *Anſwers, Excuſes, and Obſervations, to be got by heart, and uſed, as occaſion offers, by my Servant* Robin.

If a Man knocks hard early in a Morning, with a Cane in his Hand, believe him a Creditor, and the firſt time anſwer him, that I am not well, and you dare not Diſturb me ; to Countenance which, beſure two or three days in a Month, tye a Rag upon the Knocker of the Door. The Second time, I was ſent for about earneſt Buſineſs, to any buſie Nobleman you firſt think of. Afterwards ſay for me, as you would have others ſay for you to

whom

whom you Owe Money; but beſure you be not catch'd in a Lie, for People are too apt to believe that Courtiers Servants Lie; tho' they ſpeak Truth, if their Deſires be'm Comply'd with. If it be one that wears a Sword, 'tis Ten to One but 'tis either ſome body I am in Combination withall to Cheat another, or that he himſelf is to be Cheated, him preſently admit, for from ſuch, Corn comes to the Mill. If it be one whoſe Company I have ſhun'd, ſend him to ſome Tavern *or* Coffee-houſe *out of the Verge of the Court, where to beſure I never go but on a Sunday.*

Some part of the Paper had been torn off, but one may be certain, he had learn'd the whole Leſſon by the variety of Shams and Excuſes he had conſtantly ready. Bleſs me, how was my Inquirer Surpriz'd at the Reading it! and began to conceive that he was fallen into the Hands of a Tongue-Padding Cheating Courtier; but finding his Counſel in ſome meaſure ought to be followed, he was reſolved to make Applications as he was directed. In a ſhort time by Friends or Money, he was little or much Recommended to almoſt all Fortune's Darlings, that had the Diſpoſal of any Employs; one or other of them he was almoſt continually waiting on with the Recommendation of my Lord ſuch an one, Sir ſuch an one; or honeſt Mr. ſuch an one; and every one to whom he was Recommended, like true Courtiers, ſpoke him fair: One promiſed the next thing that fell; another promiſed to take Care of him; a Third, out of Kindneſs, would have him Qualify himſelf, that upon any Opportunity he might jump in: A Fourth took Money in part; and a Fifth invited him to Dinner, which Gentleman it muſt be ſaid of him, did him more Kindneſs than all the reſt; for after he had waitted half a Year, he found their promiſes to be only Air; for when the firſt had power by a Vacancy, to beſure he ſaid, He was pre-ingaged. The Second's care was to avoid him. The Third Gentleman would not give him Opportunity to Jump, continually Selling Reverſions. The Fourth did his Buſineſs but in part, for he could never get all his Money again. Thus Shuffled off from one to another, by fair Words and Promiſes, he ſpent a great deal of time, and all his Money to no purpoſe; meeting with ſo many Diſappointments, and really wanting Neceſſaries, and reflecting on the Uſage he had met withal, and dreading the Poverty he ſaw approaching, he had fallen into Diſpair, but that he had ſtill the Happineſs to carry in his Mind, the Thoughts of Futurity, from which he reſolv'd as much

much as poſſible to be Content; and to ſtrengthen him in his Acquieſſing, and Reſignation to a Supreme Will, he often went to Church; but one day going into St. *Martin*'s, thô early, the Surly Clark refus'd him admittance into a Pew, which ſo mightily concern'd him, that he went to his Lodging, and whilſt the Thought continued, he Wrote the following Verſes.

To what Extremities am I driven,
When Pariſh-Clarks bar my Converſe with Heav'n,
As much as in the ſurly Raſcals lye;
Who by the Face, the Pocket do deſcry,
And Sine Pence, *admittance they deny!*
Theſe under Graduate Peters *of the Church,*
Would Sell to Simon *the Heavenly Gift,*
If to their Avarice and Humour left;
Perhaps the Men did my Misfortunes know,
Affraid to Truſt me, who ſo much did Owe:
Deny'd admittance, leſt that I ſhould pray
Bleſſings, for which they thought I'd never Pay.

Having long Rack'd his Brains, and Spent his Money and Time in Vain, his peery Landlord by a Writ, ſecur'd him a ſafe place in the *Marſhalſea durante Vita*, unleſs a Compaſſionate Parliament releaſe him by an Act of Grace.

Fed up with Hope by ſuch, his Money's ſpent,
But has no greater Proſpect, than if Lent
To needy Noblemen, of it's return,
Who ſeldom Pay a Debt, but to the Urn.
Place-Brokers *to Enquirers ſtill ſpeak Fair,*
Blow up a Bubble Globe, which turns to Air
Like Lottery *Projectors draw a Scheme,*
How Thouſands may be got,
If, if they Draw *the* Lot;
But Hit, or Miſs, there's Profit ſtill to them.

FINIS.